

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6470

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2572

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US, EG

SUBJ: WASHINGTON PRESS ON US/ISRAEL RELATIONS
AND RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. BLITZER, JERUSALEM POST, UNDER HEADLINE "SISCO FAILS TO REASSURE US JEWISH LEADERS" REPORTS THAT UNDERSECRETARY IN MEETING WITH ABOUT 40 REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN JEWRY SOUGHT TO REASSURE THEM THAT REASSESSMENT WOULD NOT LEAD TO CHANGE IN US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND SURVIVAL, AND THAT US WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE ITS "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH ISRAEL. HE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE, BUT REFUSED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC AMOUNTS. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO LINK BETWEEN REASSESSMENT AND AID ISSUE. UNDERSECRETARY ALSO TOLD LEADERS THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL ISSUE STATEMENT UPON COMPLETION OF REASSESSMENT. ARTICLE NOTES EXPECTATION THAT REASSESSMENT WILL BE FINISHED BY ABOUT MAY 10.
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2. RABBI ISRAEL MILLER, TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER MEETING THAT NOT ALL CONCERNS OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY HAD BEEN RESOLVED. MILLER SAID, "WE'RE IN FOR A LONG DIFFICULT PERIOD", WITH MANY "QUESTION MARKS"

REMAINING ABOUT US POLICY TO ISRAEL. MILLER AND OTHER LEADERS BELIEVED REASSESSMENT AND AID DECISIONS WERE INDEED RELATED, AND THAT UNDER-SECRETARY HAD BEEN "DIPLOMATIC" IN DENYING THIS. JEWISH LEADERS POINTED OUT TO UNDERSECRETARY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FEW--IF ANY--STRONG USG STATEMENTS SUPPORTING ISRAEL SINCE COLLAPSE OF TALKS, AND THIS COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY ARAB STATES.

3. MARGALIT, HAARETZ, REPORTS THAT ISRAELI SOURCES IN WASHINGTON ARE SURPRISED BY PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT PREPARED BY UNDERSECRETARY ANALYZING RECENTLY SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE EGYPTIAN POSITION. ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO SELECTED CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN BOTH HOUSES. DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY AFFIRMS THAT EGYPT WAS READY TO MAKE FAR REACHING CONCESSIONS TO ISRAEL, INCLUDING NON-USE OF FORCE DECLARATION, REDUCTION OF BOYCOTT AND ANTI-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA, WITH ONLY RESERVATION BEING REFUSAL TO MAKE NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION. ISRAELI SOURCES ARE REPORTEDLY NOT SURPRISED BY DEPARTMENT'S VIEWPOINT BUT BY DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENT ON HILL. SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN RAISED QUESTIONS PROMPTED BY THIS DOCUMENT WITH ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT RECEPTION GIVEN FOR VISITING TRANSPORT MINISTER YAACOBI.

4. MARGALIT ALSO NOTES THAT EGYPT IS UNDERTAKING EXTENSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN WASHINGTON, FIRST EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT US SINCE BREAK OF RELATIONS IN 1967 IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN 16 DAY PROGRAM. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HELD LARGE RECEPTION FOR DELEGATION EARLY THIS WEEK.
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5. HAARETZ ALSO CARRIED UPI REPORT OF PRESS BRIEFING BY MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AFTER THEIR MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY. DELEGATION MEMBERS SAID THEIR IMPRESSION WAS THAT SECRETARY RENEW HIS NEGOTIATING EFFORTS BEFORE JUNE, AND THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT EGYPT TO MAKE GREATER CONCESSIONS THAN IN PAST TO PERMIT RENEWAL OF THESE EFFORTS. DELEGATION DID NOT EXPECT GENEVA CONFERENCE TO MEET BEFORE JUNE OR JULY, AND THEY BELIEVED THAT NEW US NEGOTIATING EFFORT WOULD BE MADE OUTSIDE GENEVA FRAMEWORK.
VELIOTES

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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